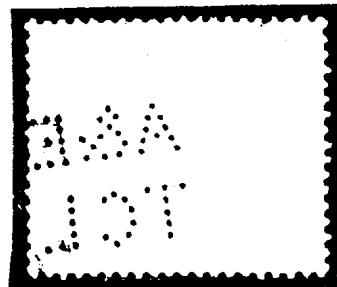


INFORMATION SOUGHT ON AN AUSTRALIAN PERFIN

John Mathews has been sent an Australian stamp with perfin not previously reported on such issues and seeks some help to establish whether, or not, this usage is genuine.

This perfin is "A&E/TCL" as shown on a black-brown KGV head postmarked 'G.P.O. MELBOURNE, 20 MR 29'. It may be significant that the perfin is slightly askew with respect to the edge of the stamp.

A&E
TCL



This pattern is listed in the GB catalogue as A2150.01, known used on KGV issues and the KGVI dark colours, which is consistent with the postmarked date. The user, according to the 7th edition of Tomkins Catalogue, is "Africa and Eastern Trade Corporation Ltd" (of Liverpool?). The "Eastern" suggests that their trade may have included Australia, although Melbourne Directories for the period 1926 to 1932 make no mention of a company of this name, or any similar name.

It could be that the stamp, and possibly the envelope to which it was affixed, got perfinned on arrival in the UK for some reason. Does any member have another copy of this perfin on an Australian stamp?

Replies can be sent to John at 21 McConnel Cres., Kambah A.C.T. 2902, Australia or by e_mail to johnm@student.canberra.edu.au.